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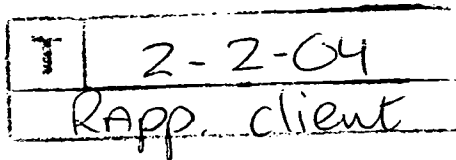
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Ingekomen 30 DEC 2003

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Datum/Date

02.01.04

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

P045588EP

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

03075703.3-1242-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

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COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

6

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 559 584 A (IKEDA MASATOSHI ET AL) 24 September 1996 (1996-09-24) * column 5, line 7 - column 9, line 54 * * figures 1,5 * ---	1,2,10, 12-18, 20-23	G03F7/20
X	EP 0 358 443 A (CANON KK) 14 March 1990 (1990-03-14) * column 5, line 28 - column 12, line 17 * * figures 1-3 * ---	1,2,10, 12,14, 15,17, 18,20-23	
A	US 6 342 941 B1 (SHIRAISHI NAOMASA ET AL) 29 January 2002 (2002-01-29) * column 11, line 29 - column 17, line 40 * * figures 4-8 * ---	1,6-8, 10, 13-15, 17,18, 20,21	
A	US 6 399 518 B1 (UEDA ISSEI) 4 June 2002 (2002-06-04) * column 5, line 26 - column 6, line 52 * * column 7, line 31 - column 11, line 19 * * figures 1,2,4-6 * ---	1,17-20	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) H01L G03F
A	WO 01 20650 A (TSUJI TOSHIHIKO ;NIPPON KOGAKU KK (JP)) 22 March 2001 (2001-03-22) * abstract * * figures *	1,17-20	
A	US 2002/024645 A1 (NAKANO HITOSHI) 28 February 2002 (2002-02-28) * paragraph '0072! - paragraph '0096! * * figures 3-5 * -----	1,17-20	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19 December 2003	Examiner Aguilar, M.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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